

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 9, 2005, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. No claims are cancelled in this amendment and claim 6 is added so that claims 1-6 are now pending.

In all claims, the term “high-frequency” has been eliminated from the preambles. This step is taken merely to avoid misinterpretation of the scope of the claims based upon a mistaken opinion of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit concluding that the term “high frequency” is limited to the frequency range of 3-30 MHz. As clearly understood by one of skill in the art, and by the Examiner in examining this patent application, the stripline structures disclosed pertain to much higher frequency range circuits.

Claim 5 was allowed and claim 3, a dependent claim, was also indicated as allowable.

In this Amendment, claim 1 is amended strictly for clarity and a portion of examined claim 1 is removed and placed in new dependent claim 6. This step is taken because it appears that there may have been some confusion in understanding the language of claim 1 in view of the repetition of certain words. The power amplifier of claim 1 includes a multilayer substrate including a plurality of laminated dielectric layers. First and second grounding conductors are part of this laminated structure and sandwich first and second strip conductors located at different positions, with respect to the laminating direction of the substrate, within the substrate. Further, according to examined claim 1 the first grounding conductor may include first and second grounding conductor **portions**, the second grounding conductor may include first and second grounding conductor **portions**, or both of the first and second grounding conductors may include respective first and second grounding conductor **portions**. This feature of the invention is emphasized because, as discussed below, an important part of the Office Action, in rejecting the claims, seems to have confused the grounding conductors with their respective portions.

Amended claim 1 expressly states that the first grounding conductor includes first and second grounding conductor portions without specifying whether the second grounding conductor includes such portions. Newly added claim 6 specifies that the second grounding conductor includes first and second grounding conductor portions. Thus, the scope of amended claim 1, considered together with new claim 6, is the same as that of examined claim 2 and no change in ultimate claim scope has been made. Nothing in the claim distinguishes the first and second grounding conductors from each other so they are interchangeable in regard to applying the claim to a particular structure.

Applying amended claim 1 to the embodiment of Figure 1, it is apparent that the second grounding conductor might be compared to the element 6 on the reverse side of the

laminated substrate. The first grounding conductor is, therefore, the element 2 in that Figure 1. It is apparent that element 2 includes two portions, the first grounding conductor portion 3 and the second grounding conductor portion 4. It is further apparent that those two first and second grounding conductor portions 3 and 4 are at different positions, with respect to the laminating direction of the multilayer substrate, the direction Y_1 shown in Figure 1.

Examined claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected as anticipated by Ishida et al. (U.S. Patent 6,201,439, hereinafter Ishida. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

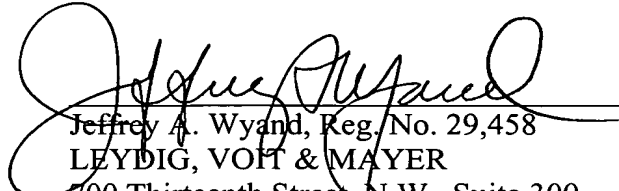
The application of Ishida, particularly its Figure 7, to the language of claim 1 is clearly explained in the Official Action.

Applicants do not quarrel with the application of the language of claim 1 to Figure 7 of Ishida as described at page 2 of the Office Action. However, that application continues onto page 3 of the Office Action and, at that point, the comparison is no longer accurate. The Examiner has identified, as corresponding to the first and second grounding conductors of claim 1, elements 2170 and 2210 of Figure 7 of Ishida. It is apparent that the grounding conductor 2210 of Ishida is entirely planar so that it cannot correspond to the first grounding conductor of claim 1 that includes two grounding conductor portions that are at different positions, with respect to the laminating direction, within the multilayer substrate. However, the first grounding conductor identified in the Office Action corresponds to element 2170 in Figure 7 of Ishida a conductor that is likewise planar and is spaced at a uniform distance from the grounding conductor 2210 in Ishida.

In explaining the application made of the language of claim 1 to Figure 7 of Ishida, at page 3 of the Office Action, it is stated that “the second grounding conductor [portion] is positioned in the lamination direction of the multilayer substrate different from the first grounding conductor [portion] (where 2170 and 2200 are different, thus inherently positioned differently).” In the foregoing quotation, the words “[portion]” do not appear in the Office Action although those words appear in claim 1. An error may have been made in omitting these essential words of the claim which explain that one of the first and second grounding conductors has two different portions. Further, commas introduced into the final paragraph of claim 1 in the Preliminary Amendment were intended to make clear that the phrase “in the lamination direction of said multilayer substrate” modify “said second grounding conductor portion”, explaining the difference in positioning that is referred to in the claim. When the precise language of the claim presented is taken into account, it can be seen that the interpretation made of the different positioning of the first and second grounding conductor portions was not the clear meaning that is present in claim 1. To avoid continuation of this misinterpretation, the final paragraph of claim 1, likewise reproduced in newly added claim 6, but referring to a different grounding conductor portion, is clarified.

In view of the foregoing explanation and clarification, without substantive change, of claim 1, the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4 as anticipated should be withdrawn and all of claims 1-6 allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


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